Historic Preservation

QUARTERLY OF THE NATIONAL TRUST
FOR HISTORIC PRESERVATION

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HISTORIC HOUSE KEEPING

Sixty-two persons from 13 states, the District of Columbia, Puerto Rico and Canada enrolled for the inaugural course in Historic House Keeping held the week of Sept. 18 at Cooperstown, N. Y., under the joint auspices of the New York State Historical Association and the National Trust. Many of them were active curators of historic house museum operations and a number of others were presiding officers of boards of trustees or official commissions.

Louis C. Jones and Frederick L. Rath, Jr., directors of the two organizations, served as co-directors for the course, and were assisted by 22 speakers and faculty members. Morning and afternoon sessions were divided into two periods, with an hour for individual consultation periods with faculty members best qualified to advise in specific problems. Evening programs were designed to broaden the scope of the shortcourse by an examination of the philosophy and objectives of historic interpretation.

Experts dealt with project planning, criteria for deciding if an historic house merited saving, legal aspects of acquiring and administering properties open to the public, historical and archaeological research, standards of architectural restoration during the first session each morning. The second morning session each day dealt with the problems of interpreting historic sites in order that they might fulfill an educational purpose. It included advice on signs, labels, publications, post cards, film strips, and the training of guides. The first afternoon session dealt with administrative problems including safety, house cleaning, insurance, seasonal differences, salaries, volunteers, promotion, publicity, fund-raising and other methods of financing a project. Techniques were the subject of the second afternoon session: A quick practical summary of museum techniques; accessioning; cataloging; research, identification, preservation, storage and display of metals, leather, manuscripts, textiles, paintings and furniture.

"What's wrong with Historic Preservation" was the subject of the first evening session by Kenneth Chorley, president of Colonial Williamsburg. Carl Feiss, A.I.A. planning and urban renewal consultant, lectured on "Planned Cities in early America," Carleton Sprague Smith, musicologist, on the role of music in historical interpretations, and Charles Montgomery, director of the Henry Francis du Pont Winterthur Museum and Alice Winchester, editor of *Antiques*, discussed the philosophy and objectives of historic preservation.

PILGRIM SHIP *MAYFLOWER*

As a contribution to the fostering of Anglo-American relations, Project Mayflower, Ltd. of London, has offered to reproduce the sailing vessel, the *Mayflower*, which brought the Pilgrims to Massachusetts in 1623. It will be built in Devon to the specifications of Plimoth Plantation (a Trust member organization). It will be launched in the summer of 1956, sailed across the Atlantic and will visit the chief ports on the Atlantic before being permanently berthed in Plymouth, Mass., a permanent gift through Plimoth Plantation to the U.S. from the Commonwealth of Nations.

William A. Baker, architect, author and originator of the plans for this reproduction, is consulting with technical advisors on details of ship construction. Formally trained in naval architecture at Massachusetts Institute of Technology, Mr. Baker is now with the Bethlehem Steel Company Shipbuilding Division at Quincy, Mass. A lifetime student of old sailing vessels and their construction, he has written many authoritative studies on the subject and made plans and specifications for the restoration of Amundsen *Gjoa*, the first vessel to make the northwest passage, as well as for *Mayflower II*.

HARPERS FERRY

This West Virginia city, whose prosperity—like John Brown's body has long been "a-mouldering in the grave"—is on the brink of a new life. Arrangements for land acquisition for Harpers Ferry National Monument have been completed. West Virginia has given 500 acres and Maryland plans to offer 800 acres. Under the jurisdiction of the National Park Service a program is scheduled with an appropriation of $59,000 for this fiscal year to get an actual restoration program under way. The Civil War left the town in ruins, but it enjoyed a brief resurgence as a tourist resort until disastrous floods swept the lower area of the mountanous village at the confluence of the Potomac and Shenandoah Rivers. Tourists, attracted by its rugged scenic beauty and dramatic history, are returning in increasing numbers to take self-guided tours recommended by the Park Service, until the time when it will take its place as one of the developed National Monument areas.

TRUST MEETS OCT. 21-22

Nashville, Tenn., has been chosen as the site of the ninth annual meeting of the National Trust, which will meet there Friday and Saturday, Oct. 21-22, at the invitation of the Association for the Preservation of Tennessee Antiquities, Governor Frank G. Clement and Mayor Ben West. Headquarters will be in the Hotel Hermitage. Advance registration, consultation and Board of Trustees meetings are scheduled Oct. 20.

A street at the Village Crossroads, Farmers' Museum, Cooperstown, N. Y., New York State Historical Association. Le Bel Studios

A plantation breakfast at *Belle Meade* in the 80's. Gen. William H. Jackson, C.S.A., left foreground; his father-in-law, Gen. William Giles Harding, seated right foreground. *Nashville Tennessean*

Registration will be held 8:00-9:15 a.m. Friday at the Hotel Hermitage, followed by the opening session from 9:15 to 10:15 a.m. in the Iris Room, at which time David E. Finley, Chairman of the Board of Trustees, will preside. Buses will leave from the hotel at 10:30 a.m. for *Belle Meade*. This historic house museum is administered by the Association for the Preservation of Tennessee Antiquities, which is providing the meeting place and special entertainment for the program scheduled there. The log cabin built by Giles Harding of Virginia in 1805 on the original land grant is still standing, over-shadowed by a handsome mansion erected in 1853 by John Harding. Its hundreds of acres included deer parks, and game preserves, but were most noted for their thoroughbred breeding stables, home of Iroquois, first, and for decades, the only American-bred horse to win the English Derby. The tremendous stables and the monument to one of the other great *Belle Meade* champions will be on view. The panel session on "*Belle Meade* and some Aspects of Historic House Keeping" will be in the gardens. Professor Frederick D. Nichols, A.I.A., of the University of Virginia, will preside. Miss Margaret W. Brown of the Smithsonian Institution, Elbert Cox of the National Park Service, and Howell E. Jackson of Middleburg, Va., will participate.

The traditional mint juleps will be served under the trees, followed by a typical plantation "breakfast."

Buses will leave at 2:00 p.m., passing a number of Nashville's noted historic sites and buildings en route to *The Hermitage*, restored residence of General Andrew Jackson, 7th President of the United States. This is administered by the Ladies' Hermitage Association, another Trust member organization.

The reception and annual dinner will be held at 7:30 p.m. that evening at *Cheekwood*, residence of Mr. and Mrs. Walter Sharp.

The Annual Preservation Forum will be held at 9:30 a.m. in the Legislative Chamber of the State Capitol as a courtesy of the State. The Capitol was built in 1845 by William Strickland, whose body lies in a crypt in the north wall. Frederick L. Rath, Jr., Director of the Trust, will preside. The speakers will be Mrs. O'Neill Ford of the San Antonio Conservation Society, who will talk on "Community Relations in San Antonio." Mrs. Agnes Addison Gilchrist of the Society of Architectural Historians, biographer of William Strickland, who will discuss the architect and his great works; James A. Gray of Winston-Salem, N. C., who will describe the fund raising program of Old Salem, Inc.; and Charles E. Peterson, A.I.A., of the National Park Service, who will discuss the architectural features of the old Natchez Trace. During the second half of the forum, members may present brief statements on their own projects or comment on current developments in the preservation field.

At the lunch in the Ballroom of the Hotel Hermitage, Mr. Finley will preside and Stanley F. Horn, Tennessee Historian and Preservationist, will be the principal speaker.

Among the members of the several organizations who have assisted with arrangements for the local program are Mrs. Allan Van Ness, Mrs. E. C. Tompkins, Mrs. M. T. O'Brien, Mrs. Douglas Henry, Miss Margaret L. Warden, Mrs. John K. Maddin, and Stanley F. Horn.

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CITIES AND CHURCHES

In the heart of downtown Nashville, members of a newly-formed congregation met in the 104-year-old Presbyterian Church designed by the great architect, William Strickland, to offer prayers of thanksgiving on Oct. 1 for the saving of that unique monument of the Egyptian revival style. To save the church, members of a minority group had to raise a fund of $550,000 to purchase the property from the First Presbyterian church majority which had relocated in a suburban area. The majority group wished to sell the church to commercial interest for razing, since it is located in the downtown business district.

The minority group found support for its campaign from the National Trust, the Society of Architectural Historians and the American Institute of Architects in its appeal to save the historic church building. Agnes Addison Gilchrist, former president of the Society of Architectural Historians, and an active Trust member, donated 20 copies of her scholarly biography of William Strickland, all of which were sold for the benefit of the building fund. The necessary support, however, came from citizens of Nashville and Tennessee, many of them not members of the Presbyterian Church.

This successful struggle encourages the Trust in the role that is often pressed upon it of interceding on behalf of a church or other architectural monument which is about to be lost to commercial interests. With the cooperation of friends among our members and member organizations, we speak with an authority that merits consideration of our point of view.

The flight to suburbia and the sub-divisions that sprawl out from all of our large cities is making the plight of downtown congregations a serious one. Their valuable real estate is coveted for parking garages or other commercial buildings. Temptation must have been resisted more than once by those entrusted with the fate of the nation's notable churches in our early cities. Boston, New York, Philadelphia, Charleston, Newport, and other congested cities all have treasured churches in the heart of business or commercial areas, loyally supported by small congregations who no longer live a short Sunday walk away.

As Mrs. Gilchrist said, "A city church that fulfills its responsibilities is of the greatest spiritual value to a city as offering a place of quiet for worship for people in the noon hour, before work or after work or for exhausted shoppers."—HDB

ENGLISH TRUST SCHOOLS

Dates have been set for the Fifth National Trust Summer School to be held in association with Attingham, the Shropshire Adult College and the York Institute of Architectural Study. As now scheduled the course will be held July 6-16 at Attingham; July 16-22 in York, and as an innovation July 22-29 will be held in Scotland under the direction of the National Trust of Scotland. Brochures are being mailed to member organizations of the American National Trust. They are available to individual members on request to headquarters.

NEW MEMBER ORGANIZATIONS

Vieux Carré Commission (La.); The Keyes Foundation; California State Division of Beaches and Parks; Friends of the Lincoln Shrines, Inc. (Ill.); State Capitol Historical Association (Wash.); Adam Thoroughgood House Foundation (Va.); Porter-Phelps-Huntington House (Mass.); Antiquarian Society of Wisconsin; Ladies' Hermitage Association (Tenn.); Nicholson & Galloway, Inc. (N. Y.); King of Pressia Historical Society (Pa.); Marine Historical Association, Inc. (Conn.).

* * *

Beaufort, S. C. The John Mark Verdier or LaFayette House (1790-95) has been purchased by public subscription and restored. Leading in the movement to restore the house were representatives of the Beaufort College, the Museum and the Historical Society. The house was noted for its fine interior Adam woodwork and large ballroom. It had been owned by descendants of the original builder until it was acquired by the preservation group. The Historical Society now meets in the ballroom; a restaurant, real estate firm, lawyer's office and insurance and credit bureaus occupy other portions of the building, providing funds for restoration and maintenance. Among the Trust members who worked with the local group on the project were Ronald F. Lee and Francis J. Ronalds.

PRESERVATION NEWS

Towanda, Pa. French Azilum, the village erected for a refuge for victims of the "Reign of Terror" in 1793 on the Susquehanna River in Bradford County, is to be reconstructed under the auspices of French Azilum, Inc., a non-profit organization. About 1500 acres of the original 2400-acre site are being acquired on which will be reconstructed the typical log houses of the period and *La Grande Maison*, generally known as the Queen's House, which was intended for Marie Antoinette and the Dauphin. An open air amphitheatre is planned for presentation of historical pageants, plays and musical entertainment. There will be recreational and parking areas. Leo E. Wilt, historian of Towanda, is president of the organization.

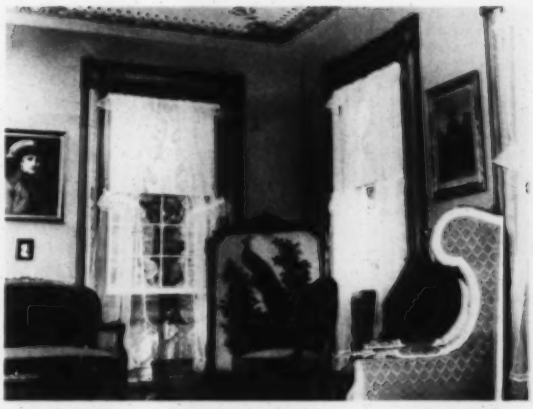
Urbanna, Va. The Association for the Preservation of Virginia Antiquities, which owns the tobacco barn constructed in 1680 on the Rappahannock River in the newly-laid out town of Urbanna, is planning its restoration. The Middlesex County Woman's Club and local citizens are contributing toward the restoration which they hope to complete by 1957 for the Jamestown celebration. Worth Bailey, Curatorial Consultant of the Trust, has served as advisor to the project.

Belmont, Wis. Pigs have been housed in the building which was used as the territorial supreme court before the capital was removed to Madison. The Wisconsin Federation of Women's Clubs is raising $25,000 to move the building across the street adjacent to the old capitol and restore it.

Natchitoches, La. With donations from members of the Parish and Catholics throughout the state, restoration of the Church of the Immaculate Conception (1856) began in August. The present building was preceded by a mission church built in 1714 and a later large log structure near the present site. Within this second church, called St. Francis of Assisi, St. Denis, founder of the city, was buried in 1744. The earlier churches were destroyed by fire and, faced with serious deterioration of the old structure and the need for additional facilities, the church decided to restore the old building at a cost of $120,000.

Champoeg, Ore. Oregon Daughters of the American Revolution have reconstructed the pioneer dwelling (1855) of Robert "Doc" Newell, who broke the first wagon trail from Fort Hall to Walla Walla in 1840. Secretary of the Interior Douglas McKay was principal speaker at ceremonies in August for laying the cornerstone for the structure.

Albany, N. Y. Fort Ontario at Oswego is being preserved as part of the program of the N. Y. State Education Department. The fort stands at the mouth of the Oswego River overlooking Lake Ontario and commanding the entrance to the harbor and the old fur-trading route to the western Great Lakes. Forts have been on the site from 1755 under French, British and American control and were destroyed in 1756, 1778, and 1814. Abandoned at various intervals, Fort Ontario served as a training post for military police in World War II before reverting to N. Y. State in 1949 and being designated a State Historic Site.



Parlor in La Porte House (1836), built by a son of one of three French refugees who remained at French Azilum. *French Azilum, Inc.*

Lookout Mountain, Tenn. Administration of historic Cravens House which took its place in American history on Nov. 24, 1863 during the bloody "Battle above the Clouds" has been delegated to the Chattanooga chapter of the Association for the Preservation of Tennessee Antiquities (a Trust member), by the U. S. Department of Interior. This is part of the Chickamauga and Chattanooga National Military Park, oldest and largest of the national military park areas. Restoration of the house and construction of a caretaker's residence are planned under the direction of Mrs. Z. Carrter Patten, president.

Auburn, N. Y. After four years of restoration by the Foundation Historical Association the Seward House opened to the public this fall. The house was built in 1816-17 by Judge Elijah Miller, William Seward's father-in-law. Brigham Young, later head of the Mormon church, worked on the house as a 16-year-old journeyman carpenter-painter. Seward was governor of the state, U. S. Senator and Secretary of State in Lincoln's Cabinet, and in this house he entertained such distinguished guests as Henry Clay, General Grant, General Custer, Admiral Farragut and Presidents John Quincy Adams, Martin Van Buren and Andrew Johnson. Seward died in this house in 1872, and at the death of his grandson, William Seward in 1951, the house with its beautifully landscaped grounds, and furnishings, was left by him as a memorial to his father and grandfather.

IN DANGER

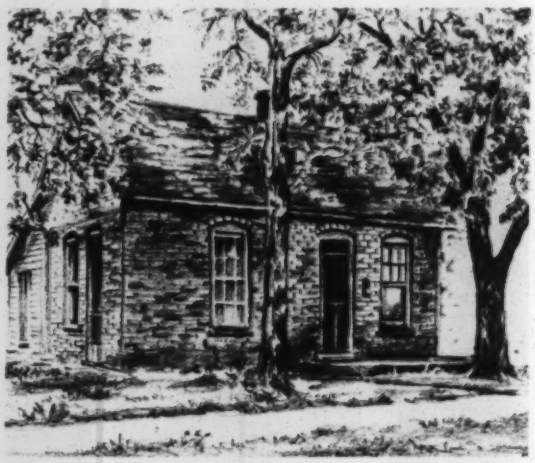
Crestwood, Mo. The St. Louis County home built in 1837 by pioneer Oswald Sturdy is to be razed to make room for a new subdivision.

Millville, Ind. The state-owned site of the birthplace of Wilbur Wright, world aviation pioneer, is scheduled for demolition by a labor crew from the state reformatory over the protests of local citizens. The house in which Wright was born burned in 1884 and the present structure was erected on the old foundation using much of the timber from the earlier one. The state has owned the site since 1929, but for the past nine years the building has been unoccupied and vandals have smashed doors and windows and made the place "a national disgrace," according to the secretary of the Liberty Township Wilbur Wright Memorial Committee. Local citizens offered the state $1700 to restore the house and will pay a caretaker, but their offer has been refused.

Farmington, Conn. The Elm Tree Inn, a landmark in central Connecticut since 1660, is scheduled for destruction to make way for a shopping center. This is one of the many inns which boast "George Washington slept here"—as did other presidents and notables in its long history.

Rossville, Ga. Interest in preservation has crossed state lines and members of the Chattanooga Area Historical Society (a Trust member) are working with citizens of north Georgia to try to save the Chief John Ross House.

Stanton, Del. Earthworks thrown up by Washington's troops in an effort to stop the British advance on Wilmington and Philadelphia are in danger of obliteration by the Rolling Hills building development. Promoters say the portion of the tract containing the fortifications is not suitable for building sites and will be sold, they hope to someone interested in preserving them. The 150-year-old Satterthwaite mansion on the site will be razed when construction begins.



Birthplace of Arthur Capper, first native-born governor of Kansas, who later represented that state for 30 years in the U.S. Senate. He was a founder of the Capper publications, and pioneer in the 4-H Club movement. His house in Garnett is to be restored by the Capper Memorial Museum Association. From a drawing by Margaret Whittemore

Tallahassee, Fla. The 1953 legislature has appropriated $250,000 for a new executive mansion to be erected on the site of the present one, designed after Andrew Jackson's residence, *The Hermitage*, near Nashville. Representative Jones of Madison introduced a resolution which was passed, for preserving the old mansion for its historical value and erecting the new one on another site.

Washington, D. C. The great building designed by Robert Mills for a Patent Office in 1836 and occupying an important part in L'Enfant's plan for the capital, may be razed at government expense in order to provide a site for a 7000-car parking garage to be built with private capital. Members of the National Trust, the American Institute of Architects, and the Fine Arts Commission attended a hearing to protest the demolition. Wallace K. Harrison of the Commission described the building as "an architectural landmark of the Capital . . . an excellent example of Greek architecture . . . and a structurally sound building the useful life of which can be measured in centuries." In reply to the contention of General Services Administration that the building is obsolete and contains much waste space, he answered that a redesign of the interior could overcome these objections without sacrificing an important national monument.

Williamsville, N. Y. One of the first houses built in Erie County, a log structure erected in 1799 for Joseph Ellicott, a pioneer surveyor for the Holland Land Company, is disintegrating. Its owner has offered it to the Buffalo Historical Society, but there is some question as to whether restoration will be possible. Gen. Winfield Scott made his headquarters there while commanding forces on the Niagara frontier in the War of 1812.

Petersburg, Va. One of Petersburg's oldest buildings, the Boar's Head Inn, is scheduled to be demolished for space for a parking lot. Also in danger is famous *Violent Bank* in nearby Colonial Heights. The antebellum house which served as General Robert E. Lee's headquarters was scheduled for purchase as state headquarters by the Junior Chamber of Commerce, which has now decided to erect a modern building for the purpose.

Fort Thompson, S. D. Nearly reduced to a ghost town, the fort which was erected following the Little Crow massacre in Minnesota in 1862, is scheduled to be flooded by the waters of Fort Randall Reservoir.

NEWS OF MEMBERS

Detroit Historical Museum dedicated a French herb garden this summer. The garden was sponsored by the Downtown Men's Garden Club and was presented to the Society by John T. Cochran, vice-president of the Men's Garden Club of America.

Columbia Historical Society will sponsor a lecture and exhibition on old houses of the capital on November 19 at the Cosmos Club. Harold Donaldson Eberlein will talk on "Old Houses of the District and their Personalities." An exhibition of illustrations for Eberlein and Cortlandt Van Dyke Hubbard's forthcoming *Historic Houses of George Town and Washington City* will open on that date and remain open to the public for about three weeks.

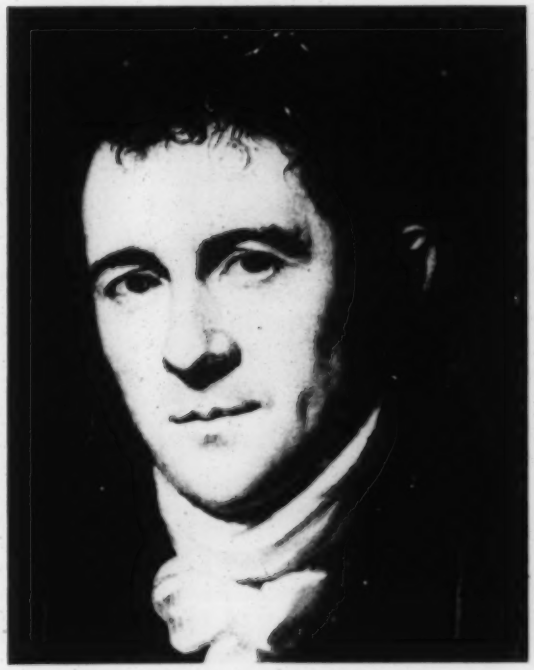
Crucible Steel Co. took out of operation its last river sternwheeler steamboat and has presented it to the Ohio Historical Society River Museum at Marietta.

On his 81st birthday, former President Herbert Hoover, a Trustee of the National Trust, dedicated a small museum at the house of his uncle and aunt, Dr. and Mrs. Henry John Minthorne, who gave him a home when he was orphaned as a small boy. Mr. Hoover was guest of the Oregon Governor and Legislature and also saw a highway and city park dedicated to him as well.

South Coventry celebrated the bi-centennial of the birth of its celebrated patriot, Nathan Hale, under the auspices of the Antiquarian and Landmarks Society, Inc., of Connecticut. The ceremonies were staged at the Nathan Hale Homestead and included the narrative of Hale's capture and execution as a spy by the British, and his answer to his captors that he regretted he had but one life to give for his country.

Members of the Norfolk Chapter of the Association for the Preservation of Virginia Antiquities plan to begin restoration of the old lighthouse at Cape Henry which was severely damaged by Hurricane Hazel. John Davis Hatch, APVA keeper of the lighthouse, has stated that estimates of $10,000 to $12,000 have been given for restoration of the copper canopy, interior staircase walls, and foundations, and a special fund campaign is under way.

Under the auspices of the Germantown Historical Society an intensive study of the architecture of this early Pennsylvania city has been completed. Results of the study have just been published under the imprint of the American Philosophical Society. *Historic Germantown, from the Founding to the early Part of the Nineteenth Century*, by Harry M. and Margaret B. Tinkcom, and Grant Miles Simon, F.A.I.A., is 154 pages of text, maps, measured drawings and critical bibliography. The National Trust was one of the organizations participating in the organization of the survey, the results of which are to be used as a basis for preservation or restoration under the jurisdiction of the Philadelphia Historical Buildings Committee.



Benjamin Henry Latrobe *ca* 1800 portrait by Charles Willson Peale, an illustration from *Benjamin Henry Latrobe* by Talbot Hamlin (New York, Oxford University Press, 633 p., appendix and index, 104 half tones, 42 line cuts. $15.00). This definitive biography of America's first professional architect by Talbot Hamlin is being released by the publishers late in October. It is a major contribution to the cultural history of the federal period. *Blakeslee-Lane*, by courtesy Mrs. F. C. Latrobe

Frank E. Klapthor has been named curator of the Museum of the Daughters of the American Revolution in Constitution Hall, Washington, D. C. Mr. Klapthor studied at the Parsons School of Design in New York City and at the Art Institute in Pittsburgh. Before this appointment he served in the Division of Civil History of the Smithsonian Instiution and had an active part in the creating of the period settings used in the First Ladies Hall, the gallery where the gowns of the White House Ladies are displayed.

The restored John Volger house (1819) facing the main square in the Moravian village of Salem opened in April as another step in the proposed complete restoration of the old village within the modern city of Winston-Salem, N. C. by 1966, its bicentennial year. John Volger was a silversmith and clockmaker, whose two-story brick house has been furnished with Moravian furniture, much of it owned by himself and donated by the descendants who made possible the restoration. The restorations are under the direction of Old Salem, Inc., a member organization.

Rosedown, St. Francisville, West Feliciana Parish, La., built 1835 for Mr. and Mrs. Daniel Turnbull and still owned by their descendants, must be sold to settle the estate of the last owner-resident. There are 2800 acres of plantation lands which may be sold separately. The gardens, laid out by a great French landscape architect, are ornamented with sculpture; the famous avenue of live oaks and fine Greek Revival house with its dependencies have been a subject of concern to many Trust members who hope to assure its preservation by finding a sympathetic purchaser.

Frances Benjamin Johnston, Library of Congress

LEGISLATION

Boston, Mass. After previously obtaining an opinion on its constitutionality of the justices of the Supreme Court of Massachusetts, the legislature of that state has passed "An act creating the historic Beacon Hill District in the City of Boston and establishing in the building department of said City the Beacon Hill Architectural Commission and defining its powers and duties." The movement to protect this unique section of the city was led by the Beacon Hill Association, a Trust member, which was assisted with copies of similar legislation in other areas provided by the Trust, and also speakers for forums discussing the program and guidance in preparing a survey of the area. The legislation will become effective Oct. 25.

Nantucket, Mass. Under the auspices of the Nantucket Historical Society, a Trust member, and again with assistance from the Trust and from the Beacon Hill Association, first steps are being taken to preserve the architectural heritage of this island which was first settled in 1658. The state Supreme Court has already ruled on the constitutionality of proposed legislation, and consideration by the town meeting is scheduled for November.

Wilmington, Del. The *News* in this city, in an editorial entitled "Blessings for Buildings" comments that the Senate without a single negative vote approved two House measures. One of them is for the restoration of the Old Courthouse at New Castle, the other insures the usefulness and safeguarding of the Dickinson House which has just been restored, furnished and turned over to the state by the Friends of the John Dickinson House, Inc. The money appropriated will provide for maintenance of the property as a museum. The editorial concludes, "It is good to realize that the same state government that can welcome an oil refinery can also act to preserve Delaware's most cherished old buildings. A community that remembers its past while looking toward its future is a good place to live in."

Harrisburg, Pa. Two bills to protect Pennsylvania's architectural and historical monuments were introduced in the legislature in August. Moved to action by the recent demolition of the famous Krider Gun Shop in Philadelphia, and of *Chalkley Hill* in Frankford, Senator Israel Stiefel (D.-Phila.) introduced the measures. The first would permit local governments to set up an historic sites board with exclusive jurisdiction over razing, alterations or reconstruction of specific historic structures. The companion bill would designate the existing State Historical and Museum Commission (a Trust member) the guardian of all sites or structures of "educationally historic value." The commission would have legal authority to halt changes regarded as detrimental to their maintenance or preservation; and to recommend state purchase of specific threatened buildings. Violations of either law carry misdemeanor penalties of fines or imprisonment. Among member organizations supporting the bills are the State Historical and Museum Commission and the Germantown Historical Society. The Philadelphia City Council has an ordinance of this type already under consideration.